



Open
SECRETS

FOLLOWING THE
MONEY IN POLITICS

Remarks to Paul Miller Fellows, National Press Foundation
January 18, 2023

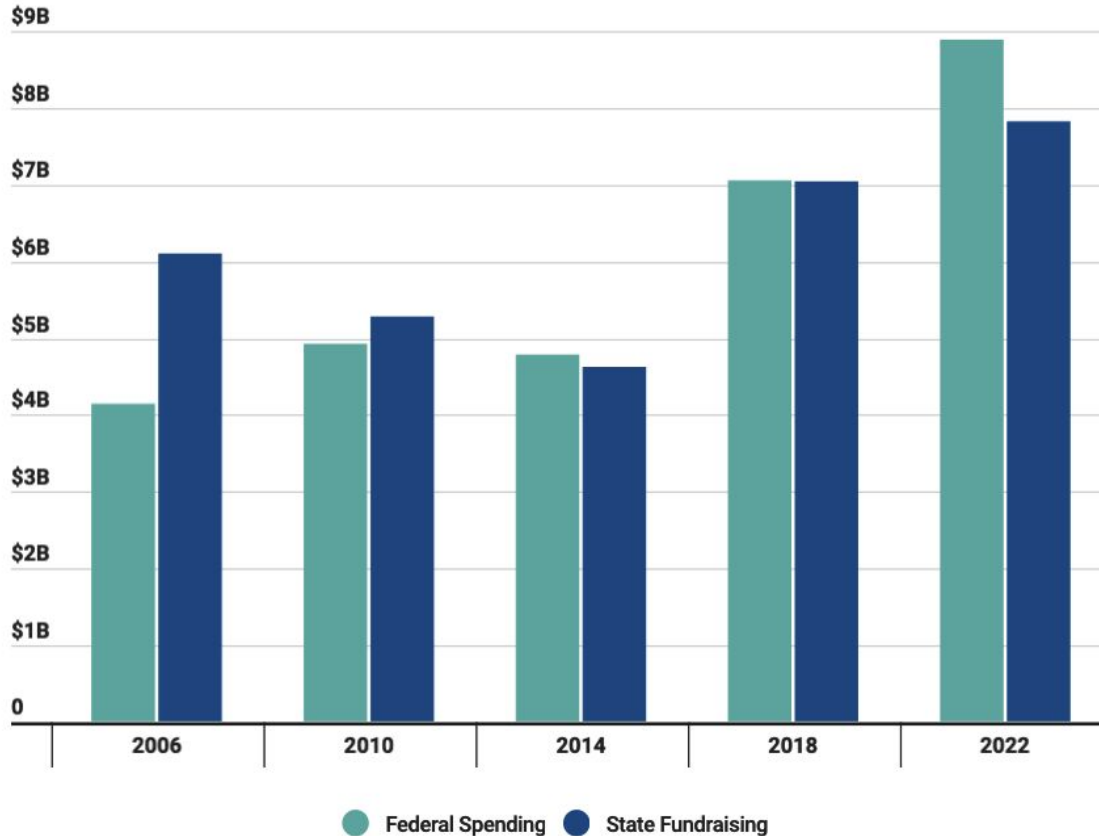


Nonpartisan, independent and nonprofit,
OpenSecrets is the nation's premier research group tracking money in U.S. politics and its effect on elections and public policy. Our mission is to track the flow of money in American politics and **provide the data and analysis so that** Americans can use this knowledge to **create a more vibrant, representative and accountable democracy.**



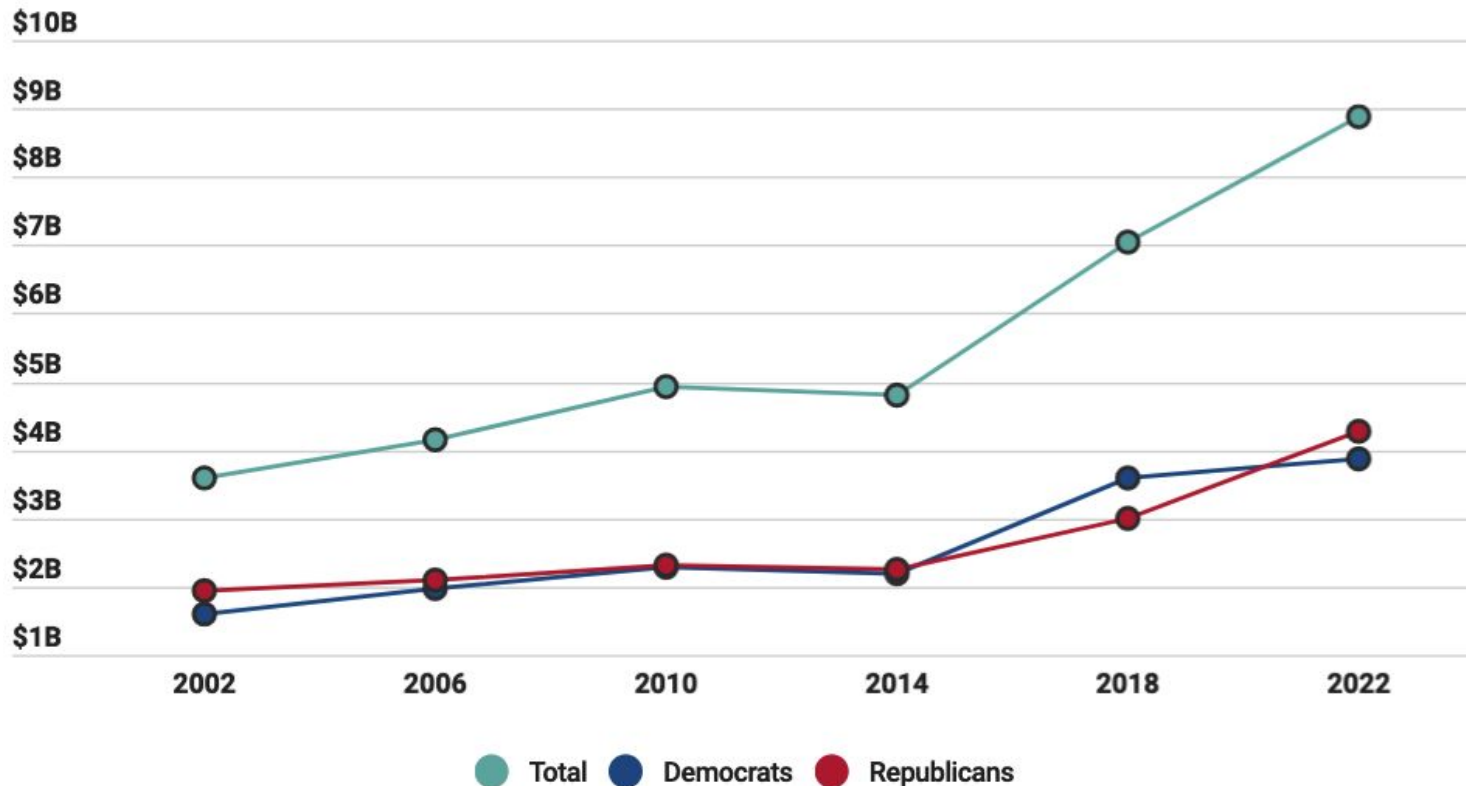
Total cost of 2022 state and federal elections projected to exceed \$16.7 billion

Federal candidates and political committees are expected to spend \$8.9 billion, while state candidates, party committees and ballot measure committees are on track to raise more than \$7.8 billion.



Federal candidates and political committees on track for record midterm elections spending

The total cost of the 2022 federal elections is projected to approach \$8.9 billion, according to a new OpenSecrets estimate.

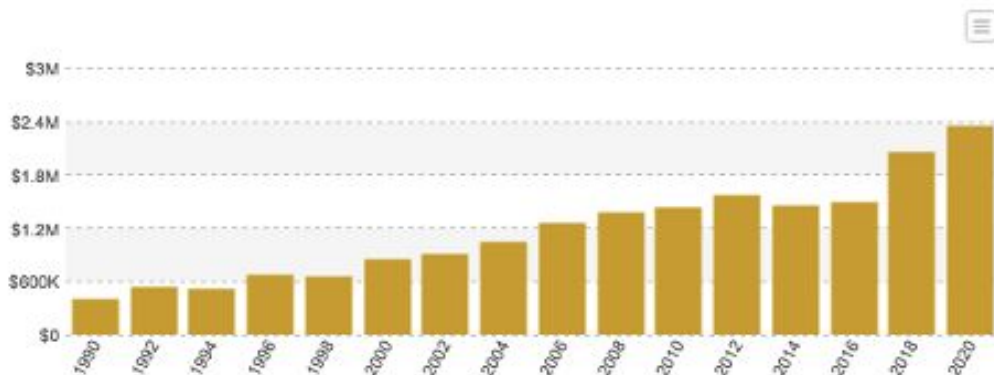


"The Price of Admission" (1990-2020)

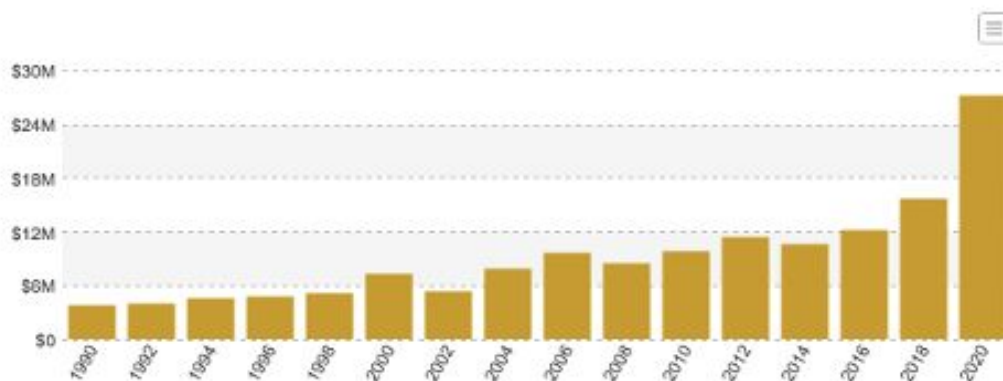
HOUSE, 2020:
\$2.4 Million

SENATE, 2020:
\$27.2 Million

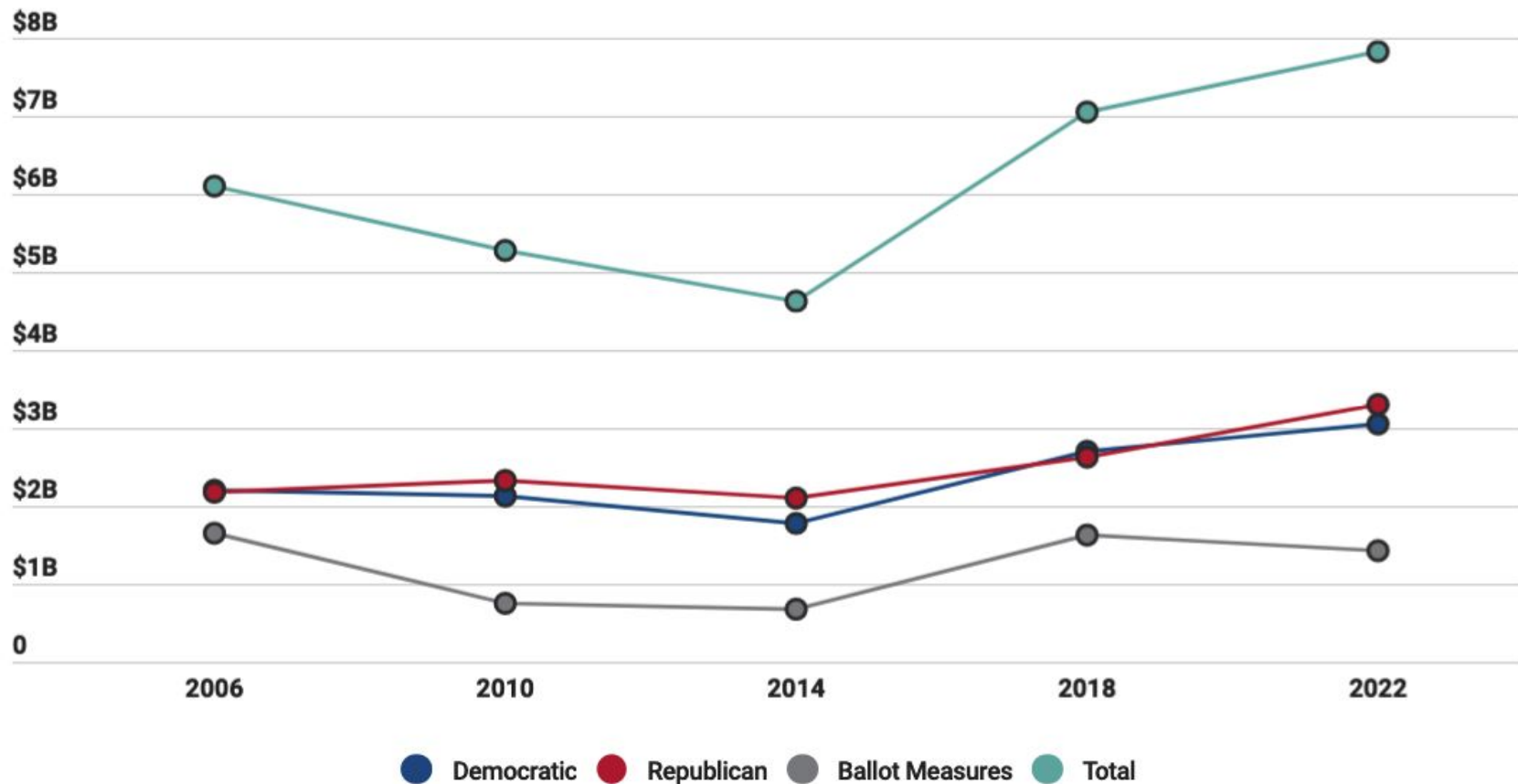
Average House Winner Spending, (1990-2020)



Average Senate Winner Spending, (1990-2020)

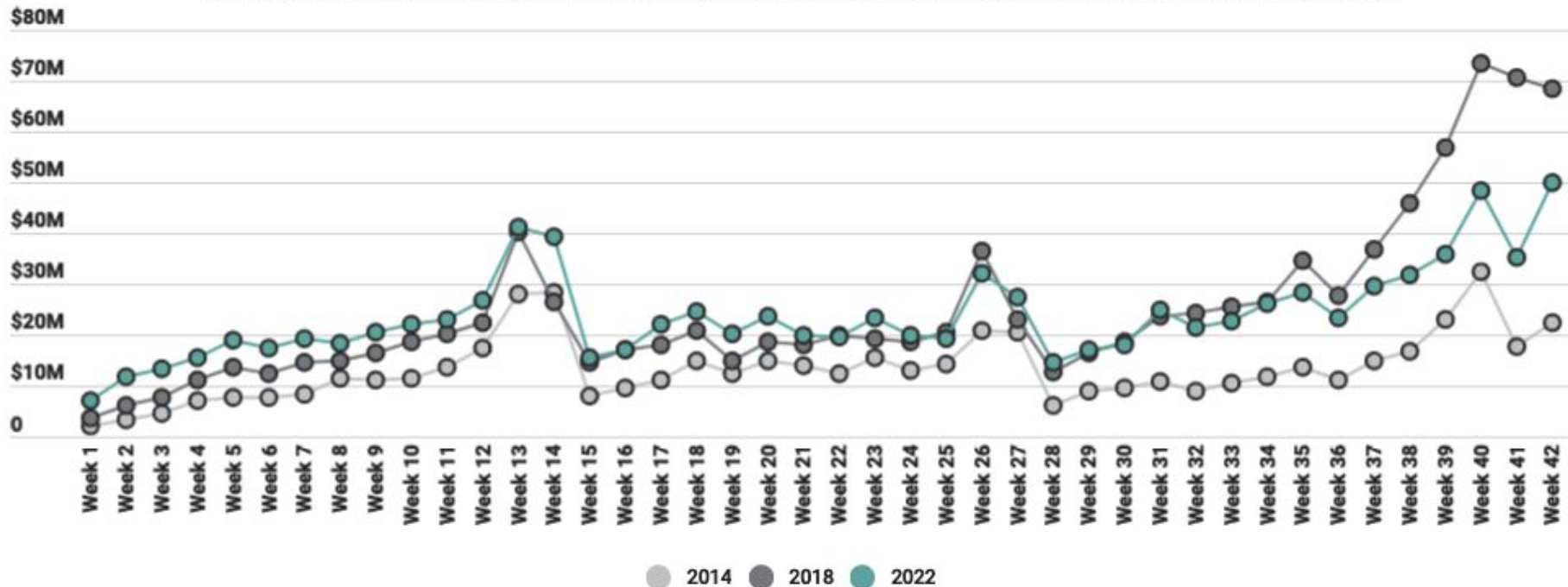


State-level candidates, party committees & ballot measure committees on track to raise more than \$7.8 billion during 2022 election cycle



Donors front-loaded federal contributions during the 2022 midterm election

Donors gave more money to federal candidates and political committees earlier in the election cycle compared to previous midterm election cycles.



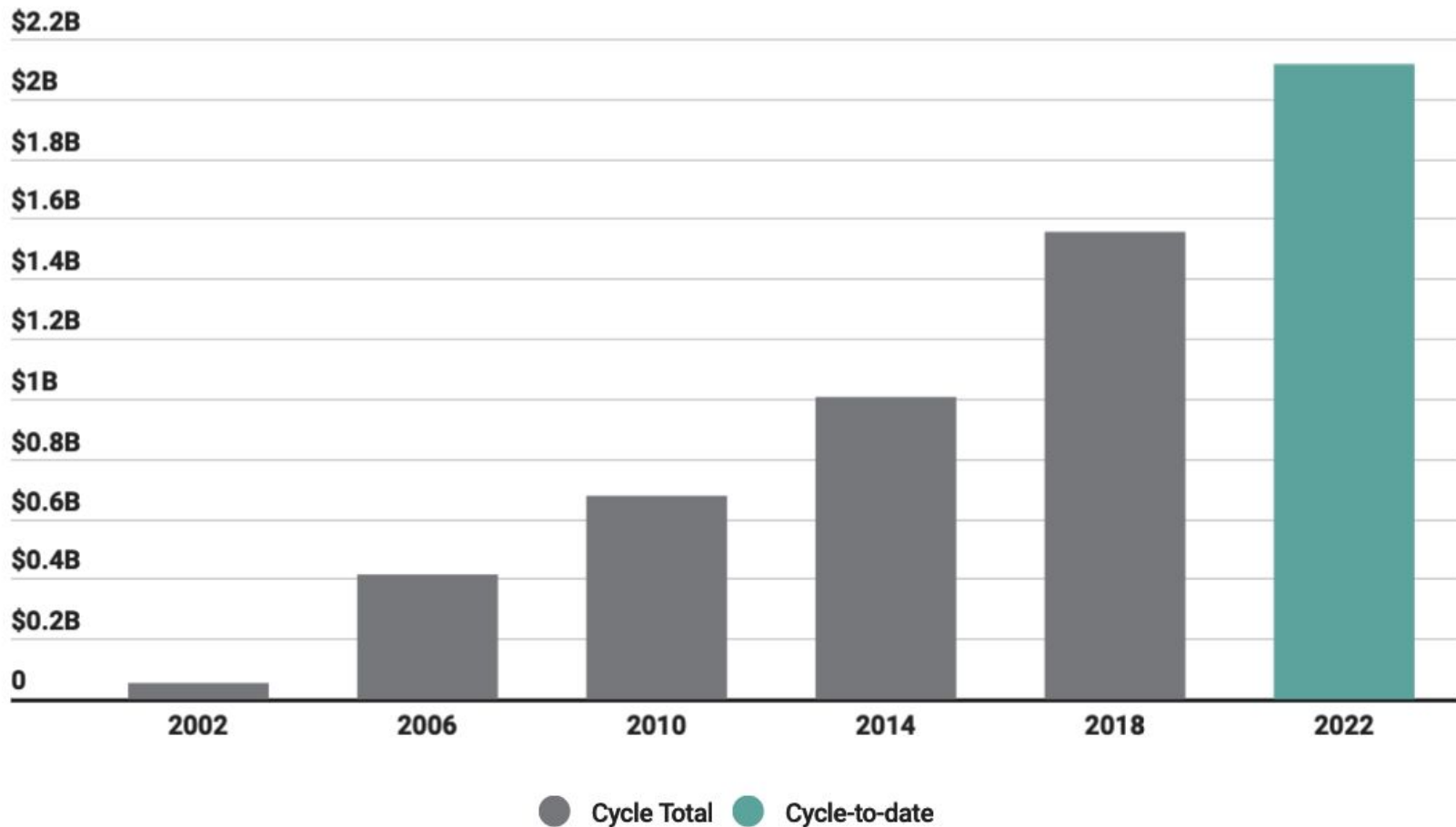
Source: OpenSecrets' data of federal campaign finance data reported to the FEC through Oct. 19, 2022.

Prior election cycle totals are adjusted for inflation.



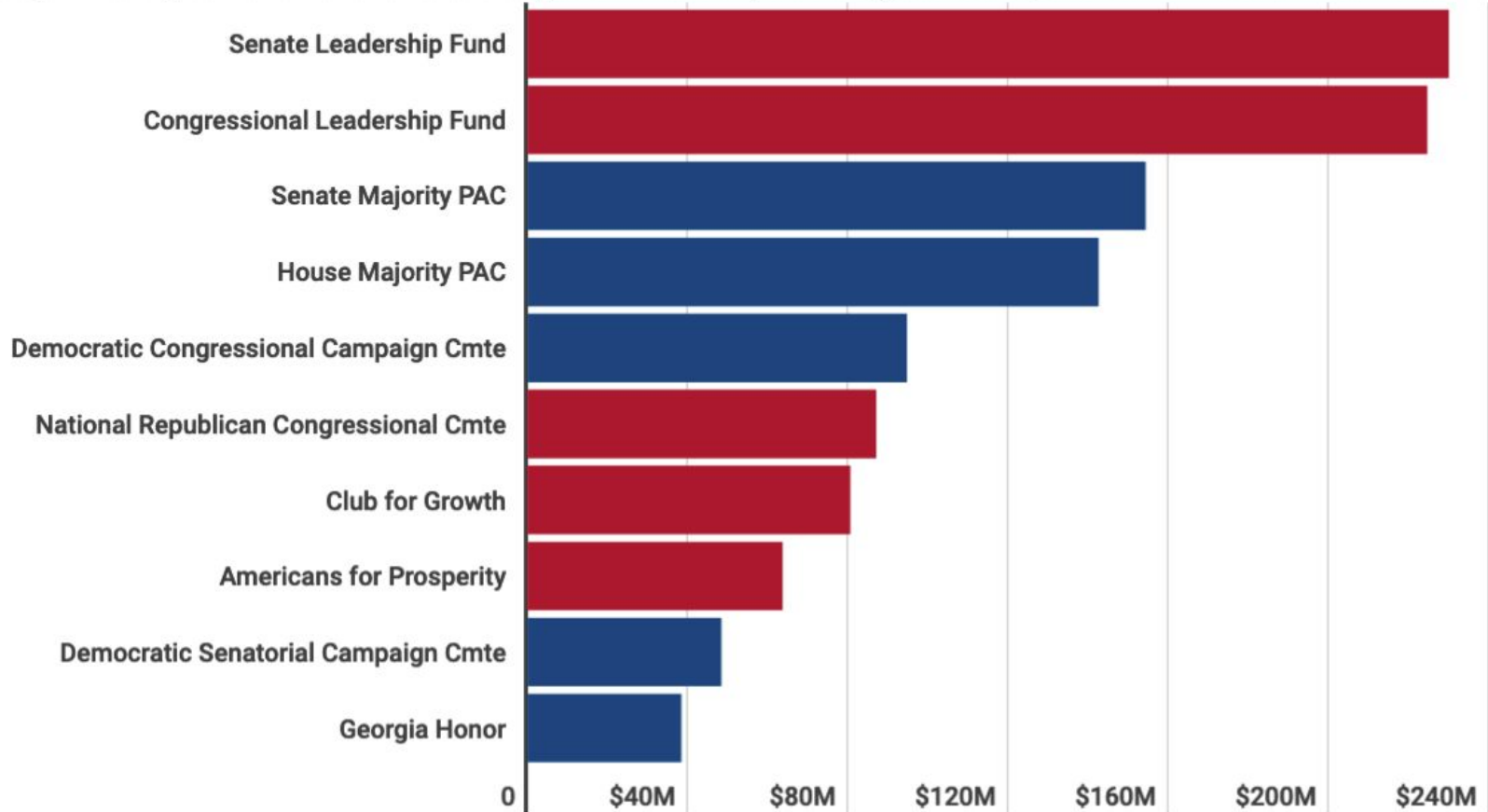
Outside spending on 2022 federal midterms topped \$2 billion

Outside groups have poured over \$2.1 billion into federal races, blowing past the inflation-adjusted 2018 midterm record of \$1.6 billion.



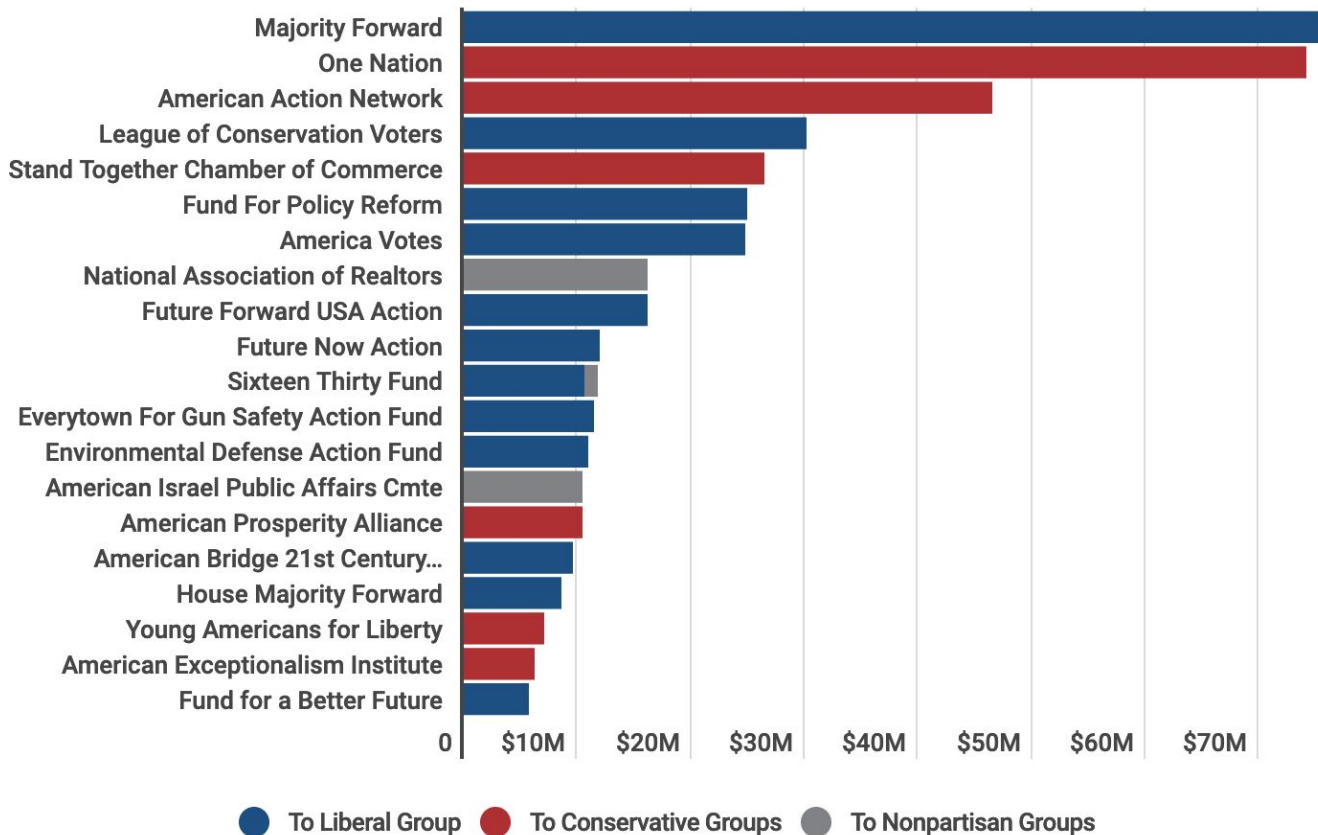
How much the top 10 outside groups have spent so far

Super PACs aligned with GOP and Democratic congressional leadership are the biggest outside spenders on 2022 federal midterm elections.



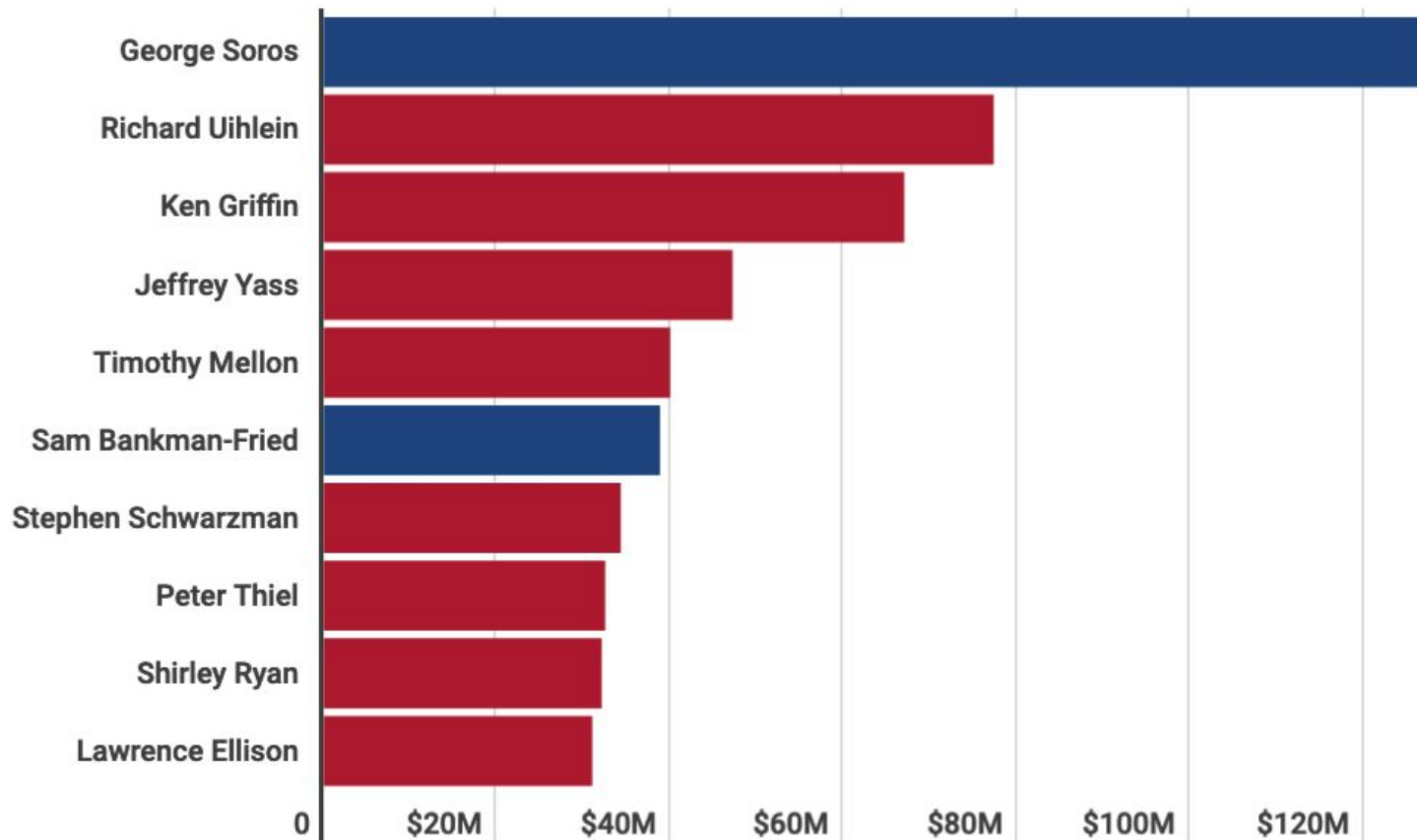
Top 501(c) nonprofits and their federal contributions during the 2022 election cycle

Federal political committees like super PACs reported receiving more than \$606 million in 2022 election cycle contributions from 501(c) nonprofits, most of which are "dark money" groups that don't disclose their donors.



Top 10 individuals to outside groups during 2022 cycle

The top 10 donors accounted for nearly one-quarter of the \$2.3 billion raised by outside groups so far this election cycle.



OpenSecrets

serves as the
sherpa of critical
primary source
material that
journalists — and
voters — require
to do their jobs.

7 - 9 million annual users

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54,000+ subscribers

1,000+ data requests

- 1** **280 articles** and investigations, generating **1.9 million page views in 2021.**
- 2** dozens of trainings and presentations annually
- 3** **More than 8,000 scholars and advocates** from more than 1,300 organizations have relied on our data since 2018.

